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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2011-0015-EA

PROJECT NAME: Gore Lakes Fuel Reduction

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32;
T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31, 6th P.M.

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

The BLM is proposing a fuels reduction project in the Gore Lakes subdivision area. The fuels reduction project consists of timber salvage/thinning and burning current piles left from an existing project, along with new piles created by the timber salvage/thinning. The purpose and need for the action is to reduce piles left by a past project and remove dead and disease infested trees to reduce the threat of a catastrophic wild fire, and comply with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). The project is expected to start in the spring of 2012 and should be completed by 2017.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

The decision memo for the Gore Lakes Fuels Reduction Project was signed by both the Forest Service and the BLM in May of 2004 (see the Categorical Exclusion Record for the Gore Lakes Fuel Reduction Project, CO-140-2004-30 CER). The purpose of the proposed action was to reduce fuel loading from the existing condition to a more desirable condition to effect an immediate change in fire behavior to reduce the rate of spread and intensity within the analysis area. The proposed action included the creation of a 127 acre, six hundred foot-wide, shaded fuel-break on public lands administered by the BLM adjacent to private land boundaries in the Gore Lakes subdivision area, along with a 92 acre timber salvage on BLM lands.

The shaded fuel-break was designed to reduce the amount and continuity of fuels below the forest canopy on public lands administered by the BLM along private land interface areas. The treatment would retain a mature forest canopy and shaded conditions, while reducing the

development of woody ladder fuel accumulations. The predominant tree species targeted for removal included sub-alpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Aspen was to be retained where present to enhance its use as a "living fireline" due to the low flammability of this forest type. Existing levels of dead and down woody debris were also targeted for reduction within the shaded fuel break.

A service contract to construct a shaded fuel-break on approximately 127 acres of BLM administered public land was awarded in August 2004. The contractor was to remove all trees (except aspen) that were less than, or equal to, six inches in diameter and leaving a stump height of no more than six inches. Branches were to be pruned from residual trees, up to a height of seven feet. Slash created through tree removal and pruning of residual trees was to be hand-piled in open areas for future burning. In addition, all dead and down debris measuring two inches to six inches in diameter was to be bucked and piled for future burning.

The contract was successfully completed in October, 2004. At project completion, it was estimated that about four thousand hand piles were constructed. The BLM began burning piles about four years ago, retaining some piles for wildlife habitat (about 10-15 percent of the total number). Although the BLM has burned piles over the last several years, it is estimated that about 2,000 piles remain to be burned. Burning windows have been limited due to the size of the piles, stipulated snow depths required to conduct burning operations and the proximity of residences to the project area. Too much snow on piles of this size makes successful burning difficult to achieve. Strict adherence to stipulations in burn plans and smoke permits during burning operations has limited smoke issues, and the Kremmling Field Office (KFO) has not received any smoke complaints as a result of the Gore Lakes Project. The average size of remaining piles is 6 x 6 x 6 feet.

Since the piles were constructed in 2004, many have settled and compressed, and some of these are no longer burnable due to that process. Most of the residual lodgepole pine within the shaded fuel-break is now dead, a result of the on-going mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. Mature and over-mature lodgepole pine stands have experienced severe MPB infestation and mortality with approximately 85-95 percent of trees larger than seven inches Diameter Breast Height (DBH) currently infested or dead. Many smaller trees with five or six inch diameters have been killed as well, largely due to their proximity to larger, beetle infested trees. A literature review indicates that lodgepole pine trees killed by MPB in previously unmanaged stands begin falling approximately five years after death and most dead trees are on the ground within 14 years (Lewis and Hartley, 2006).

There is a need to complete the burning of the remaining piles within the next three to five years in order to accomplish the original purpose and need of the 2004 CER. (Note: The current term is "categorical exclusion" – CX.) The amount of fuel on the ground within the shaded fuel-break remains high in those areas where pile burning has not taken place. Removing the existing piles through burning would help to reduce the future total quantity of ground fuels.

Private lands border almost the entire circumference of the analysis area including the north, south and east boundary of this BLM administered public land parcel. United States Forest Service (USFS) land borders a portion of the southwestern edge of the parcel. Several of the adjacent landowners have previously removed, or are currently removing, dead trees to reduce hazardous fuels and facilitate natural regeneration on their lands. Grand River Ranch is to the

east, north, and south. The Grand River Ranch has a total of 75 home sites located on its property, 24 of the home sites are on land bordering the proposed project area. Private land bordering the project to the north and west that are not part of the Grand River Ranch consist of 19 home sites, all within a half mile of the proposed project area. A major power line also runs along the southeast part of the proposed project area. With the large number of home sites and the major power line running close to the area, there is a need to reduce fuel loading in this area. As part of the previous Categorical Exclusion, there was a timber salvage in parts of T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31; and T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31, totaling an estimated 92 acres, which was not done due to limited access to the area. Access to T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31 has now been granted. With the MPB infestation now affecting the area, ground fuel loading has started to increase and will continue to increase as dead trees continue to fall, creating a heavy fuel load that will increase the chance of a catastrophic wildfire.

This environmental assessment replaces the 2004 categorical exclusion and the decision memo that originally authorized the project. While the pile burning project remains basically the same as described in the CER, changes in technical aspects of the burn plan necessitated a re-analysis of the project. The use of a categorical exclusion for hazardous fuels reduction projects such as this one was discontinued in August 2009.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

> Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)
>
> Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999
>
> Decision Number/Page: Decision 6, Pages 9 and 10, sections b. and c.
>
> Decision Language: "The planned actions will emphasize improving forest vigor and growth as well as minimizing losses caused by insects, disease, or fire." "Intensive management activities could include timber harvesting techniques, artificial regeneration, stand conversion, stand improvement, pre-commercial thinning, and commercial thinning. Limited management activities will involve primarily custodial practices such as fire protection and salvage."

The fuel treatment is located in the Kremmling Field Office Fire Management Unit, described in the Northwest Colorado Fire Program Area Fire Management Plan (2011). Fire Management guidance for this unit includes:

- Reduce accumulations of hazardous fuels in the wildland-urban interface in order to protect life and property and provide for firefighter safety.
- Provide protection for known heritage sites, scenic corridor and facilities, power lines, and other similar values.

The National Fire Plan, Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001) – states in part: Fire Management and Ecosystem Sustainability - The full

range of fire management activities would be used to help achieve ecosystem sustainability, including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components.

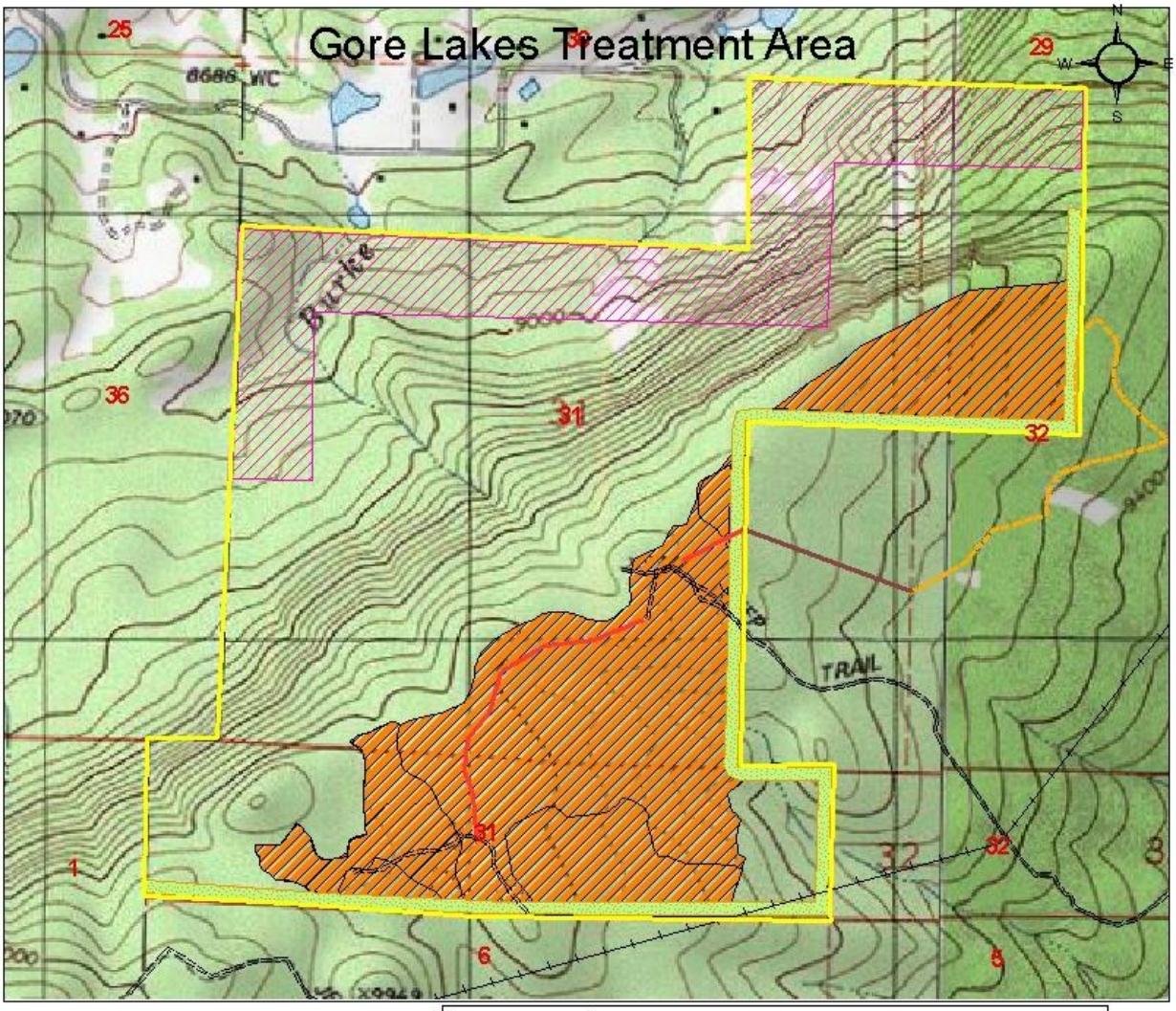
This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is in compliance with applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President's Council of Environmental Quality Regulations, US Department of Interior requirements, and guidelines listed in BLM Manual Handbook H-1790-1. The EA assesses the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives and documents public participation as well as the decision making process.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

The BLM proposes to burn the remaining estimated 2,000 piles (approximately 20 acres), use machinery to treat trees in T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31, and burn any new piles created by mechanical treatments within the project area totaling approximately 248 acres (see map 1.1) within the next three to five years. Piles would be burned by hand ignition, and unburnable piles would be left and contribute to the number of piles providing wildlife habitat. A burn plan would be prepared and approved, and smoke permits would be obtained from the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, prior to any pile burning. Some slash may be left onsite to provide soil protection. Due to the logistical problems and staffing in the past, the burning of the existing piles was not completed. New piles would be built larger to a minimum of 15 x 15 x 10 feet to allow for a longer burn widow. Mulching by machinery would also be an option allowing more months to treat piles. With the pile size, mulching of piles, and having more staff it should take no longer than five years to accomplish all pile treatments.

The mechanical treatments would resemble a clear cut with some identified trees left for a seed source. In areas where removal is not feasible (e.g., 50-100 feet near drainages, and or too far away from roads), trees would be cut and left on site. Remaining slash would be piled and burned at a later date. These acres would be treated through timber or vegetation sale contracts, service contracts, or by other means (e.g. stewardship contracts, BLM crews). The treatments would be implemented with conventional, ground-based logging equipment and/or by hand crews with chainsaws. Implementation would occur during any dry season typically late spring, summer, and fall. Implementation would not occur during the four primary rifle seasons for big game. The Grand River Ranch would also be able to stop implementation for short periods to accommodate ranch guests or other ranch activities.

Map 1.1



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Map Scale
1:13,028

Kevin Thompson
8/17/2011

Legend

- Gore Lake EA Boundary/ BLM Boundary
- Temporary Road .50 miles
- Private Temporary Road .27 miles
- Access Road to the timer salvage
- PowerLine
- Proposed Fence Unit 32 acres
- Proposed Salvage Unit 196 acres
- Gore Lakes Fuel Break

Treatments for mechanical areas are as follows:

- Remove all dead tree species;
- Leave identified live aspen, ponderosa pine, spruce, and Douglas fir trees;
- Cut identified living tree species over nine inches in diameter at breast height, to reduce the threat of windblown trees;
- Mechanical areas would have the product removed for salvage or be piled;
- All piles would be burned, and or mulched by machinery;
- 100 foot clearing would occur along fence lines;
- Machine piles would be a minimum of 15'x 15'x10' and no larger than 30'x 30'x 20'.

Mechanical treatments would be accomplished by using machinery such as Bullhogs, Hydro-axes, Timbco, Fella-bunchers, skid steers, chainsaws, chippers, and Fecons. Treatments would be conducted by the BLM or contractors. Temporary roads may need to be constructed to help in the salvage and removal of materials. The temporary roads would not entail more than 1.0 mile of roads.

The project area would be best treated through a sanitation/salvage harvest, removing dead, currently infested and beetle susceptible trees, as well as trees that are likely to be windthrown (primarily large subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce). The prescription for sanitation/salvage would be to cut all lodgepole pine that is five inches DBH or greater. Smaller diameter lodgepole pine could be cut to remove dead, diseased, or beetle-hit trees. Larger subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce would also be harvested to prevent future blowdown after sale completion. Minimum harvest diameters for these two species would most likely be nine inches.

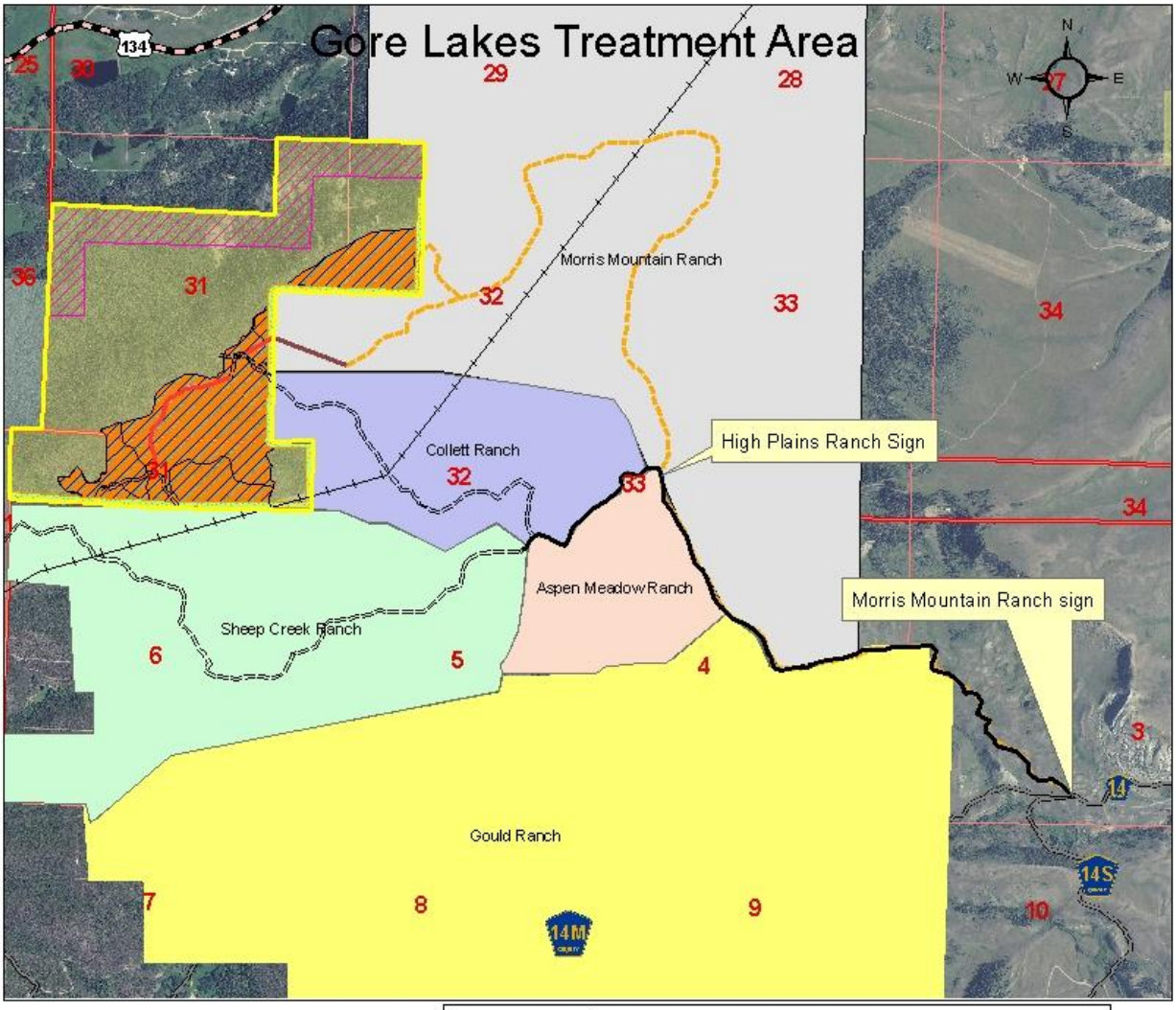
Sound cull logs and larger diameter tops would be offered for sale as biomass or decked onsite to be sold at a later date. If decks are not removed they will be treated as piles and will be burned the second winter. Lodgepole pine less than seven inches DBH may be treated this way, as well. The remaining slash from harvest operations would be lopped and scattered, and or piled for later burning by the BLM. The depth of the slash would not exceed 24 inches.

Existing roads on BLM-administered public lands would be graded to a maximum of 12 feet wide, with equipment such as, but not limited to, a road grader or a dozer. Maintenance would occur on both existing and constructed roads during sale operation by the contractor. The contractor would also maintain the section of road from the BLM land to where the Grand River Ranch Association maintains the road.

Grand County Road 14 and private roads provide access to the sanitation salvage units. The Grand River Ranch Association already does frequent maintenance on Grand County Road 14 and the road leading up to High Plains Ranch. Grand River Ranch is willing to maintain the roads as long as there is timer salvage being completed by ranches within the Association.

Access is through the Grand River Ranch Association and High Plains Ranch. Access has been verbally granted from both ranches and a letter that allows access would be in place before work on the project begins. (See Map 2)

Map 2



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map Scale
1:29,625

Kevin Thompson
8/17/2011

Legend

- Gore Lake EA Boundary/ BLM Boundary
- Temporary Road .50 miles
- Private Temporary Road .27 miles
- Access Road to the timer salvage
- PowerLine
- Proposed Fence Unit 32 acres
- Proposed Salvage Unit 196 acres
- Gore Lakes Fuel Break

In order to facilitate harvest, an estimated one mile of temporary road may need to be constructed. Temporary roads are displayed on Map 2. Location and extent are somewhat dependent on the type of equipment used. Temporary roads would not exceed 15 percent grade and the running surface would not exceed 12 feet in width. Construction of the road is typically done by a machine with a blade, such as a road patrol and or dozer. Temporary road locations would be approved by the BLM prior to development. After harvest operations are completed, the temporary roads would be reclaimed, unless needed for post-treatment activities. Temporary roads would be out-sloped, and roads and landings would be scarified, as necessary. Temporary roads, landings and major skid trails (as necessary), would be seeded with a BLM-approved mixture of forbs and grasses. Temporary roads, or portions thereof, would also be covered with slash to further stabilize the road or to discourage use after sale completion. Temporary roads left open for post-treatment activities would be signed to restrict access and closed by BLM following completion of such work.

Post-harvest treatment of units would include noxious weed control and the felling of residual undesirable live trees. The cutting of undesirable live trees after treatment is referred to as release & weeding, whereby live trees that were not harvested are cut down because they would not contribute or may be a detriment to the future stand (i.e. diseased, competing with more desirable trees, physical defects, etc.)

It is anticipated that the activities described in the proposed action would be completed in four to five years, although monitoring could continue for some time after that.

Design Features of the Proposed Action:

1. Burning operations would only be conducted when there is a minimum of three inches of snow on the level at the project work site.
2. Smoke permits would be obtained from the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division. A burn plan would be prepared and approved prior to pile burning operations. The BLM would also coordinate with Grand County's open burning program.
3. Contacts would be made to agencies and land owners that have interest as per the burn plan.
4. Piles would be burned when conditions permit, but may be mulched if burn conditions do not exist.
5. All work times would have to be approved with Grand River Ranch and High Plains Ranch.
6. Contactor would need to get written permission from Grand River Ranch and High Plains Ranch to get access across their lands.
7. Mechanical treatment areas that are contracted would have the woody material removed and or piled by the operator.
8. Disturbed areas, such as burn piles, roads, or landing areas would be given two growing seasons to revegetate. If revegetation does not stabilize the site, then the areas would be scarified and/or seeded as necessary, to establish adequate ground cover to prevent weeds and provide soil protection. Monitoring would be done by the BLM.
9. Temporary roads would not be constructed during wet, frozen, or snow covered conditions.

10. Temporary roads would be constructed with adequate drainage to prevent runoff travelling the road surface and creating ruts.
11. No equipment or vehicles would travel in wetland areas. If an area must be crossed, then the crossing must be designed to reduce alteration of the hydrology and vegetation.
12. Wetland areas and drainage channels must have vegetative buffers to protect both onsite and offsite water quality. Surface disturbances within these buffer areas would be minimized.
    - 50 ft. buffers for small drainages and wetlands
    - 100 ft. buffers for perennial streams.
13. Vegetation treatments would be limited to areas of slopes less than 35 percent unless specific erosion control measures are designed and implemented to insure site stability and downstream water quality.

ALTERNATIVES:

No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative would not burn the piles and would leave them to create habitat for small wildlife. Mechanical treatments to harvest dead, currently infested, and beetle/disease susceptible trees, as well as associated actions such as temporary road construction, would not occur.

An alternative considered but not further analyzed: was to burn the existing piles and not implement the mechanical treatments in sections T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31. This alternative was considered if access was not allowed from the east side of the project. This alternative only treats remaining piles from the prior project. Disease and bug infested trees would be left untreated; this does not meet the purpose and the need.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The project is located on the western edge of Middle Park, approximately seven miles northwest of the town of Kremmling. Although there is limited data for the air quality, the park is considered to be meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. A portion of the Gore Lakes subdivision is just north of the project area, and residences are less than a quarter mile from the northern boundary. The Old Park Subdivision is on the north side of Colorado Highway 134, with the nearest homes approximately 0.5 miles north of the public land's northern boundary. The eastern boundary is approximately one mile from the nearest residence. Prevailing winds are out of the west-southwest.

Middle Park has two Class 1 air quality areas. Class 1 areas have the highest level of air quality protection, allowing the least amount of change (i.e: increase in pollutants). The Class 1 areas are further than the five mile distance analyzed by the state's Air Quality Division, and would not be impacted. The Flattops Wilderness Area is west of the Gore Lakes burn area. Due to the prevailing winds, it is very unlikely that the proposed project would affect the Flattops

Wilderness Area. The town of Kremmling is the nearest community, with smoke sensitive organizations including a hospital, an assisted living center, and two public schools. The Sarvis Wilderness Area is less than ten miles to the northwest of the project area, but does not have a Class 1 designation.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Equipment and vehicles involved in treatments emit particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and greenhouse gas pollutants. These emissions are considered to be of small quantity and of short duration, especially due to the size of the proposed project area. Emissions from burning slash piles include particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and greenhouse gas pollutants. These emissions are the same for prescribed fires and wildfires, but wildfires can have exponentially larger emissions if fuel loadings are large and fire intensities are high. The most effective means of controlling air pollutant emissions from a wildfire is to inhibit large catastrophic fires by using vegetation treatments, including prescribed fires, to reduce hazardous fuel loadings. When properly executed, managed fires are expected to cause fewer air quality impacts both in the short term and in the long term than under the No Action Alternative, if a wildfire was to occur. The small piles involve less combustion than a wildfire, and can only be lit when the fuel type and fuel loading meet management parameters for control and under weather conditions that enhance efficient fuel consumption and air pollutant dispersion. Impacts likely to be associated with burning are visibility and irritation to eyes, nose, and mouth. Due to the prevailing winds and distances involved, the individual home owners in the Gore Lakes and Old Park subdivisions are the most likely to be impacted by the burning. The smoke plan and the burn permit authorize burning only when conditions allow for good smoke dispersal that help minimize the potential impacts to adjacent homeowners. The design features also include homeowner notification of planned burns, so that more sensitive individuals could opt to avoid the area or stay indoors during the burns. The Proposed Action uses salvage logging to treat the dead and downed timber, minimizing the risk of an uncontrolled wildfire which, in turn, reduces the risk of significant impacts to air quality.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to the existing air quality from the public lands, unless a wildfire occurred. The No Action Alternative has a greater risk for a wildfire to burn within the proposed project area due to the amount of downed and dead fuel. Actual air quality impacts from a wildfire would be dependent on the many variables of the fire and conditions at the time of the fire. There is a higher potential for increased emissions and longer duration from a wildfire than with the proposed action, and the smoke could impact the nearby home owners. Emissions from a wildfire impact air quality for the duration of the fire, but do not result in long-term air quality degradation.

Mitigation Measures: None

WATER QUALITY

Affected Environment: The proposed project is located within the Muddy Creek 5th order watershed in the Upper Colorado River basin. The fuel break area is within the Burke Spring Creek drainage, which flows to the north/northeast and joins Pass Creek, a tributary of Muddy Creek. There are several natural and man-made ponds on the private lands tributary to Burke Spring Creek, suggesting some groundwater discharge to the drainage. The 228 acres proposed

for mechanical treatments are within the Sheep Creek drainage, which naturally is tributary to Muddy Creek, but due to water supply impoundments and diversion ditches, no longer flows to Muddy Creek. The lower channel has been rerouted and any remaining flow joins the Colorado River at the mouth of Gore Canyon. The BLM-administered lands are tributary to the North Fork of Sheep Creek, and not the stream segments collected by the town of Kremmling for their drinking water.

In 2009, the "Upper Colorado Watershed Assessment" prioritized Grand County 6th order watersheds by their wildfire risk to water supplies. The risks of wildfire, of flooding/debris flows, and of soil erodibility were assessed and a composite score was given. The Pass Creek watershed was one of five watersheds with the highest rating, and Sheep Creek watershed was one of 18 watersheds with the next highest rating. The report recommended vegetation treatments to reduce the probability, size, and intensity of wildfires in these areas

Due to the land ownership patterns, the BLM does not monitor water quality on Burke Spring Creek or Sheep Creek. Both streams are designated by the state for coldwater aquatic life, water supply and agriculture. Sheep Creek is also listed for recreational uses. The State of Colorado lists Muddy Creek and all its tributaries above Wolford Reservoir for suspected water quality impairment due to temperatures. Burke Spring Creek would be included in this listing. Additional data are necessary to determine if impairment does exist, for which stream segments, and for the sources of the impairment.

There are several domestic water wells associated with the private residences surrounding the project. These wells would not be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: In the fuel break strip, vegetative treatments have already occurred and the proposed action is limited to burning the remaining piles during winter months. Slash piles are located on flat ground away from drainages or wetlands. Burning these piles would have negligible impacts to water quality.

Impoundments receiving runoff from mechanical treatments in the project area could fill with sediment sooner than under undisturbed conditions, reducing the storage capacity and possibly interfering with its use until maintenance occurs. The proposed treatments are located in gentle terrain, with more than 45 percent of the area having slopes of 0-10 percent, and none of the units having sustained slopes exceeding 35 percent . Gentle slopes reduce the erosive energy of runoff and the amount of runoff that leaves a site. A gentle slope also encourages deposition to occur, shortening the runoff pathway. The proposed action includes buffer strips adjacent to drainages which helps increase deposition occurring prior to being transported to live water. The very southeast corner of the project area is the only area where steep slopes could result in more ground disturbance, rapid transport of runoff and sediment, and possible slope failures. This area is approximately five acres in size.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, present conditions would be expected to continue. If a wildfire were to occur, however, there is a much greater potential to impact the water quality. High-severity fires can cause changes in watershed conditions that are capable of dramatically altering runoff and erosion processes in watersheds. Water and sediment yields may increase as more of the forest floor is affected by fire. Surface water intakes, diversions, conveyance structures, storage reservoirs and streams are all

susceptible to the effects of wildfires. An important risk factor for water uses is the transport of debris and sediment from upstream source water areas. Under the No Action Alternative, these public lands would remain at high risk for a wildfire that could impact downstream water quality and water uses.

Mitigation Measures: None

SOILS

Affected Environment: Soil information is from the Grand County Soil Survey. The proposed vegetation treatment area is mapped as primarily Upson stony sandy loam 15-65 percent slopes. This mapping unit has a large range of slopes, while the treatment areas are almost entirely less than 18 percent slopes. The soil has a low soil erodibility factor and a moderate tolerance to soil loss. The soil has only a slight hazard for soil rutting, and limitations for harvest activities, including roads, are primarily related to slopes. The soils formed in highly weathered granite, which is generally found at a depth of 20-40 inches from the surface. Permeability is moderately rapid and surface runoff is slow, unless slopes increase, and then it is rapid. Due to the coarse soil texture, plant available water is low.

The northeast portion of the proposed treatment area is mapped as Uinta sandy loam soils. When slopes are less than 15 percent, they have slight limitations for haul roads, log landing, and mechanical harvest equipment. They do have moderate risks for soil rutting due to low strength, and a slightly higher soil erodibility, but a high tolerance for soil loss. The soils generally have a deeper duff layer than the Upson soils, and permeability is moderate. Plant available moisture is moderate and runoff is slow to medium.

Both soils have moderate risks for damage from a fire. The rating considers the nutrient, physical, and biotic components of a soil, and assumes the fire removes the duff layer and consumes the organic matter. The soils have a moderate risk due to the soil textures and percent rock fragments.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Mechanical piling of slash concentrates vegetative debris rich in nutrients and piles sometimes contain duff and the soil's organic matter. Topsoil that is in the piles is generally lost to runoff. If the slash pile burns intensely, the underlying duff and organic matter can be consumed and soil fertility reduced, and a hydrophobic layer may even be created. The proposed design features keep the pile sizes relatively small, which helps reduce the intensity of the burn and would impact smaller areas. The large amount of dead material has resulted in excessive slash in similar actions, and even with slash piles, the surrounding areas are left with vegetative debris. This debris helps create microclimates that help increase soil moisture, shades the land surface, and detains runoff, increasing deposition. If the slash is mulched, the mulch provides a more continuous, easier to decompose, layer of debris that also creates a microclimate.

Roads and mechanical treatments can compact the soil and remove protective layers of duff and understory vegetation, exposing soil to erosion. Compaction of the soil not only reduces the microbial community, but it reduces the ability of water to infiltrate the soil. Roads can be sources of soil loss and conveyors of sediment loads to waterways. The coarser soil textures

within the proposed treatment areas and the more arid southeastern aspect would reduce the amount of soil compaction within the area, as the soils have moderate to high strength and do not retain moisture well. Many of the proposed methods of treatment do not result in large areas of ground disturbance, leaving a mosaic of undisturbed understory vegetation and soils.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the existing soil conditions would continue. As trees fall, the ground surface would become littered with large debris, shading the soil surface. Some snow may end up trapped above the soil surface on debris piles, susceptible to evaporation losses. If a catastrophic wildfire occurs, the high intensity could kill much of the soil organisms, including microbes at or near the soil surface. Due to the soil textures and the rock fragments, soil temperatures would be hot. Nitrogen is mineralized and leached from the soil, reducing soil fertility. If a hydrophobic soil layer is created, it could take years to return to the pre-fire water infiltration rates, which also restricts soil organism populations.

Mitigation Measures: None

FOREST VEGETATION

Affected Environment: This forested BLM-administered parcel of land is primarily comprised of larger diameter (seven inches DBH and greater), mature, and over-mature lodgepole pine stands. The forested area is located in the Gore Range at elevations ranging from 8700 ft. to around 9800 ft. There is a ridge line running from southwest to northeast that splits the parcel. This ridgeline also splits the road access to the parcel, resulting in separate access through private lands at either side of the parcel.

These stands are similar to other mature and over-mature lodgepole pine stands in the area. The majority of the lodgepole pine trees have been heavily infested with MPB with rates of mortality similar to those discussed in the purpose and need identified for this analysis. Most of the lodgepole pine in the sanitation/salvage harvest area has transitioned from the red-needle stage to the grey stage due to exfoliation of needles onto the forest floor. Individual green trees exist, mainly as scattered individuals or in patches of smaller diameter trees, primarily in the old cutting units. Dwarf mistletoe infestation is present in some of these regenerated stands, mostly along the edges adjacent to mature stands, or in areas where overstory live trees remain.

The southeast facing slopes are more uniform lodgepole pine, although several aspen stands are scattered throughout the area with some varying amounts of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and Douglas fir in stringers along the drainages. The southeast slopes are gentler terrain with slopes averaging around 5-20 percent. The northwest-facing slopes are mixed conifer with a larger component of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The northwest slopes are extremely steep (over 40 percent slope), dropping from the top of the ridge with gentler slopes on the northern boundary where the shaded fuel break treatment was located.

There are approximately 48 acres of a past timber harvest sale area on the moderate southeastern slopes that are comprised mainly of medium-to-well stocked mistletoe-infested lodgepole pine saplings and poles of varying diameters, although some residual, mostly dead lodgepole pine overstory remains. Some of the previously marked units, or portions thereof, exhibit a mix of size classes due to past harvesting activities, while others are more uniform in size.

The ability to utilize beetle-killed pine declines rapidly once trees are on the ground. Also, fuel loading would increase dramatically in a stand once the beetle-killed pine is on the ground. The stands that exhibit excessive densities have some level of dwarf mistletoe infestation. Some harvesting occurred in the area in the 1960s which appears to have selected the better trees for harvest and leaving the poor stock. The regeneration from these past timber harvest sales exhibit severe mistletoe infestation as well as in the remaining overstory live trees. The units identified in the previous analysis that were not sold due to access issues are moderately to poorly stocked lodgepole pine stands consisting of smaller diameter post and poles with varying amounts of larger diameter sawtimber. These units exhibit mortality rates of around 90 percent of the stand.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Cutting dead trees within the sanitation/salvage harvest area would remove fuels from the site and would remove hazard trees adjacent to private properties. The threat of large scale high severity and high intensity fires would be reduced. There would be a decreased risk of damage to the fences and power lines from falling trees. There would be a decreased cost associated with maintaining both the fence and the power lines, as a result of implementing the proposed action.

The harvesting of beetle-killed pine would facilitate successful natural regeneration of lodgepole pine by exposing bare mineral soil and allowing more sunlight and moisture to penetrate to the forest floor. Lodgepole pine stands in the area have serotinous cones, which may remain on the tree or ground without opening for one or more years. Cones open and seeds are shed when heat is provided by fires or hot and dry conditions. Use of standard logging equipment would result in cones being distributed over the site, in close proximity to mineral soil where high surface temperatures would open the cones. Seed germination in mineral soil increases chances of seedling survival because seedlings are better able to withstand dry conditions. Natural regeneration is expected to occur within the harvest area and should result in fully stocked stands of lodgepole pine and aspen. Therefore, seeding or planting of harvest units is not anticipated. Salvage harvest would also promote aspen suckering in areas where aspen currently exist.

Surface fuel loading would increase in the short term with the addition of slash but that increase would be reduced by slash treatments identified in the proposed action. Following treatment, winter snow loads on remaining slash would further reduce slash depth. Increased, long-term fuel loading as a result of falling trees, at least within the analysis area, would be avoided as a result of harvesting dead, infested and disease-susceptible trees.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the harvest of dead and dying trees would not occur. More sunlight would reach the forest floor as needles, limbs, and cones continue to fall from trees in the decadent grey stages. Some regeneration of the site may occur if cones fall on a favorable site and release seed. As time passes, more of the seed source would be on the ground, seed viability would begin to be compromised, and dead trees would begin to fall. Lodgepole pine is a shade intolerant species and successful regeneration of the stand generally requires exposure of the site to sunlight and sufficient exposed mineral soil, usually due to natural disturbance regimes.

Live understory trees would increase in growth and there would be an increase in ground vegetation due to availability of sunlight and moisture. Where aspen exists, there would likely be an increase in aspen sprouting. Increased ground vegetation, duff layers, and dead trees on

the ground, may inhibit successful regeneration of lodgepole pine. If regeneration is severely inhibited, the site may change to more of a grass/forb cover type. Surface fuel loading would increase and there would likely be a subsequent increase in surface fire intensity should an ignition occur.

The majority of beetle-killed trees would begin falling within the next 10 to 15 years. Fuel loading would increase dramatically with any regenerating seedlings and existing understory trees growing up through the fallen dead trees. Further regeneration of the site would likely be impeded by the loss of seed source and lack of favorable sites. A fire at this time would likely result in soil sterilization, total loss of any existing regeneration, and the possible loss of any remaining seed source.

Mitigation Measures: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

The cumulative impact summary area is within the Gore Lake and Old Park subdivisions, the High Plains Ranch, the Sheep Creek Ranch, and the Collett Ranch. The cumulative impact summary area was chosen, because of the area being in and adjacent to the proposed project and having the highest probability of being impacted. The BLM administered lands in the Gore Lakes area is surrounded by private property with limited public access on the southwestern boundary through Forest Service Lands, with no public road access. The shaded fuel break was completed, but the piles created were not all treated. Private landowners have and are currently implementing timber salvages on their lands reducing the beetle killed trees. The U.S. Forest Service also completed a fuel break.

A past timber salvage, done around the 1950s, was implemented in the middle of the BLM administered land. The past timber salvage left trees with physical defects and disease infested, therefore, trees in this area (48 acres) have little value and have been highly impacted by dwarf mistletoe.

The Old Park and Gore Lake subdivisions were established in the 1960s-1970s. With these developments Air quality has been impacted slightly by wood burning stoves and vehicle emissions.

In 2004, a 127 acre shaded fuel break was created along the northern boundary of the BLM to reduce the threat of wildfire to the surrounding homes. A 116 acre shaded fuel break, on USFS lands, was completed around 2004-2005. Approximately 350 acres of timber salvages was completed on the High Plains Ranch. (This was estimated from satellite photo maps). No impacts to air quality, soils, water quality, and forest vegetation have been recorded from these projects.

In the reasonable and foreseeable future approximately 700 acres of timber salvages are planned for the High Plains Ranch and the Collette Ranch (this was estimated from satellite photo maps) and would have similar impacts as the proposed project on the cumulative impact summary area. These affects along with the proposed actions would impact Grand River Ranch by increasing truck traffic and added road maintenance and impact air quality from pile burning. Over all the

cumulative effects would be short in duration (3-5 years) and cause minimal to no impacts over a long term time period (10-20 years).

Home construction in the Gore Lakes and Old Park Subdivisions is planned and will create more receptors for air quality and could increase hunting, hiking and camping. Emissions from vehicles and wood burning stoves would increase impacting air quality. Site preparation would cause impacts to soils, and would increase sediment that could impact water quality. Site preparation would also remove trees if houses where established in forested areas. These affects along with the proposed actions would have minimal impact due to the short duration and size of the projects.

The Forest Service has no plans for further projects in the Gore Lake area.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: A list of the tribes that have been contacted as part of the consultation effort for this EA is found in Appendix 2. No comments were received from Native American Tribes that were consulted.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife commented with the following "We would like to see restriction on hauling and logging activities during the hunting seasons in the fall of the year for the public's benefit and safety". The proposed action was modified to address this comment.

Colorado State Forest Service commented the following "We feel that by not just cutting the dead and dying that you will be able to complete this project with little to no need for future follow up to clean up the windthrown or newly infested trees".

A scoping letter was mailed on August 30 2011 (See Appendix 3). On December 8, 2011, a meeting was held at the High Plains Ranch to discuss with owners/managers of the Grand River Ranch Association, High Plains Ranch, Collett Ranch and Sheep Creek Ranch. Comments received from this meeting were "The only other considerations we would want to address would be: Consideration and coordination with our Guest Schedule for traffic on private roads, adequate insurance from Contractors - liability, workers comp, auto".

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-CO-120-2011-0015-EA

Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Fuels Reduction

Applicant/Proponent: BLM

Location of Proposed Action: T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32;
T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31, 6th P.M.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:

This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. This proposed action is in conformance with the following land use plan:

Name of Plan:	Kremmling Resource Management Plan	Date Approved:	1984

BACKGROUND

The Categorical Exclusion Record for the Gore lakes Fuel Reduction Project, CO-140-2004-30 CER) was written in 2002. The project consisted of treatments to most of T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; and T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31, 6th P.M. One of the treatments consisted of a shaded fuel break, which was completed, but the remaining hand piles still need to be burned. Another proposal in the Categorical Exclusion was to salvage timber in parts of section 31 and 32, but due to limited access this was never accomplished. Recently, access has been provided to the BLM to sections 31 and 32, but due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic most of the timber has been killed. Due to the MPB epidemic, the BLM is proposing to use machinery to cut, pile, and salvage the dead trees. This proposal would reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfire and improve the forest's health.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed the environmental assessment. I have determined that the proposed action and the alternatives are in conformance with the 1984 Kremmling Resource Management Plan.

I have determined, based on the analysis in DOI-BLM-CO-120-2011-0015-EA, that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is based on the rationale that the significance criteria, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR 1508.27) have not been met.

The following rationale was used to determine that significant impacts were not present for each criteria mentioned in Title 40 CFR 1508.27:

1. Beneficial and adverse impacts.

The proposed project would benefit forest vegetation in the area by removing the dead and down timber which would facilitate understory vegetation by allowing more sunlight and moisture to reach the ground. Removal of competition from the expansion of trees into meadows should promote the growth of herbaceous vegetation in the area. The proposed action and subsequent treatments would maintain low densities of dead timber and would result in increased structural diversity, and more open stand conditions. The proposed project would open the canopy, reduce competition for water and nutrients and result in an increase in cover of the native grasses and thus an increase in surface litter. These conditions would lower the intensity of a wildland fire and increase the effectiveness of wildfire suppression acts, helping to provide firefighter and public safety. By reducing fire intensity this would reduce impacts to soils, air quality, and watersheds compared to a high intensity wildfire.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

No adverse effects to public health and safety are anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed action. A burn plan would be written, with objectives to provide for firefighter and public safety. Burning permits would be obtained from the State and coordination with Grand County would occur to control air quality.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area.

There are no unique characteristics in the geographic area.

4. *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

The effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are not considered highly controversial.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique of unknown risks.

The use of mechanical and prescribe burning techniques to treat vegetation have been previously implemented in many locations BLM-wide. Thus, the effects on the human environment from the proposed action are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The proposed action would not establish a precedent for the future, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The proposed action is not related to other past, present or reasonable foreseeable actions likely to result in any significant impacts. The cumulative impacts of mechanical and prescribed burning treatments and any other reasonable foreseeable activities in the same area are not likely to result in cumulatively significant impacts.

8. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

The ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed action would not directly adversely affect any sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

The project would not adversely affect any sensitive, threatened, endangered or proposed for listing species.

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The proposed action does not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all monitoring requirements listed below.

Monitoring/Compliance: A field review of the burn unit immediately following the burn would help identify areas where the soil surface is exposed, where the slope length, steepness, and shape would result in higher soil losses if precipitation occurs. These would be the areas where erosion control practices may need to be installed rather than just depending on natural re-vegetation. If revegetation does not stabilize the site, then the areas would be scarified and/or seeded as necessary, to establish adequate ground cover to prevent weeds and provide soil protection. Monitoring would be done by the BLM.

Reviewer: Susan Cassel

Authorized Officer: ___/s/ Dave Stout_____ Date:___4/17/12__

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459
www.blm.gov/co/kremmling

Gore Lakes Fuel Treatments
Decision Record

Project Name: Gore Lakes Fuel Reduction

Environmental Assessment Number: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2011-0015-EA

Background

The cumulative impact analysis boundary for the Gore Lakes Pile Burn includes the area between Gore Pass and the town of Kremmling, Colorado within Grand County (Middle Park).

When looking at past similar actions within Middle Park, there have been few prescribed fires (pile burning) resulting from fuel break treatments and numerous pile burns from timber salvage sales due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. These treatments have resulted in beneficial impacts for vegetation, wildlife, natural fuel breaks by increasing diversity, production and land health. In the future, prescribed fire and vegetation treatments are expected to continue because of the bark-beetle infestation, and BLM land health objectives. The short term impacts from these treatments will result in minor adverse impacts to the public due to the smoke that is produced from the piles when they have been ignited. Smoke permits will be obtained and adhered to as well as notifications to the public while implementing this project. However, over the long term, this treatment will result in beneficial impacts by increasing forage and improving land health within the area.

Alternatives Considered but not Selected

The No Action alternative is to not burn the piles and leave them to create habitat for small wildlife, and to not mechanically treat sections T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31. This would lead to ground fuel loading which will increase in the near future as more standing dead trees fall to the ground.

An alternative considered but not analyzed was to burn the existing piles and not implement the mechanically treatments in sections T. 2 N., R. 81 W., Sections 31 and 32; T. 1½ N., R. 81 W., Section 31. This alternative was considered if access was not allowed from the east side of the

project (access was granted). This alternative only treats remaining piles from the prior project. Disease and bug infested trees would be left untreated; this does not meet the purpose and the need.

Decision and Rationale

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and consultation with my staff, I have decided to choose the Proposed Action as described in the EA. The project is not expected to adversely impact any resources long term and the benefits of the treatments outweigh the short-term adverse impacts such as soil erosion. There are many benefits to vegetation and wildlife habitat with fuel treatments before a catastrophic wildfire would occur and have long-term adverse impacts to these resources.

Consultation and Coordination

A list of the tribes that have been contacted as part of the consultation effort for this EA is found in Appendix 2. No comments were received from Native American Tribes that were consulted.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife commented with the following "We would like to see restriction on hauling and logging activities during the hunting seasons in the fall of the year for the public's benefit and safety".

Colorado State Forest Service commented the following "We feel that by not just cutting the dead and dying that you will be able to complete this project with little to no need for future follow up to clean up the windthrown or newly infested trees".

Public Involvement

A scoping letter was mailed on August 30, 2011 (See Appendix 3).

On December 8, 2011, a meeting was held at the High Plains Ranch to discuss with owners/managers of the Grand River Ranch Association, Collett Ranch and Sheep Creek Ranch.

Plan Consistency

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 1984 Kremmling RMP and the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons,

such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's Kremmling Field Office internet website.

__/s/ Dorothea Boothe_____ ___5/17/12_____
Dorothea Boothe Date
Acting Field Manager, Kremmling Field Office

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Gore Lakes Pile Burning
Project Leader: Kevin Thompson
Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)
Date Submitted for Comment:
Due Date for Comments:

Need for a field Exam: (If so, schedule a date/time)

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: (Identify public scoping needs)

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	NA	2/16/2011	BBW	BLM Class III Cultural Resource Inventory #CR-04-06 was completed for the project and found no cultural resource sites. The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
Native American	NA	5/7/2004	BBW	To date no American Indian Tribe has identified any area of traditional concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	12/02/2010	12/21/2011	Thompson	Smoke permits will be obtained from the Colorado State Air Pollution Control Division

(NP) = Not Present
(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted
(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	**Review Comments** (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
PI	Air Quality **Belcher**	12/16/10	PB	See Air Quality Section
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern **McGuire**	12/16/07	MM	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Cultural Resources **Wyatt**	2/16/2011	BBW	BLM Class III Cultural Resource Inventory #CR-04-06 was completed for the project and found no cultural resource sites. The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
NP	Environmental Justice **Cassel**	2/16/11	SC	According to the most recent Economic Census Bureau statistics (2009), there are minority and low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area. There would be no direct impacts to these populations, but possibly be an indirect impact if there were

				future development in the form of employment.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique **Belcher**	12/16/10	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains **Belcher**	12/16/10	PB	The Project Area is located in the uplands and would not affect the functionality of the floodplain, nor would it increase flood hazard.
NP	Invasive, Non-native Species **Johnson Torma Hughes**	01/19/12	ZH	There are no known invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds) growing in the project area. Since soil or vegetation-disturbing activities or fire provide an avenue for the establishment or expansion of invasive, non-native species, the BLM would monitor the project area as specified in the design features of the Proposed Action. If invasive, non-native species become established, then the BLM would be responsible for control and treatment of these species.
NI	Migratory Birds **McGuire**	12/16/07	MM	Migratory birds would not be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NP	Native American Religious Concerns **Wyatt**	2/16/2011	BBW	To date no American Indian Tribe has identified any area of traditional concern.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) **McGuire**	12/16/07	MM	T/E, and Sensitive Species would not be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid **Elliott**	2/25/11	KE	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) **Belcher**	1/12/12	PB	See Water Quality Section in E.A.
NI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) **Belcher**	1/12/12	PB	Buffer zones would protect areas from direct impacts. Indirect impacts are addressed in the water quality section of the E.A.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers **Schecter**	1/12/12	HS	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness **Monkouski**	12/10/10	JJM	There is no designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the proximity of the proposed project area.
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1) **Belcher**	1/12/12	PB	See Soils Section in E.A.
NI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3) **Johnson Torma**	12/23/10	RJ	Vegetation would not be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) **McGuire**	12/16/07	MM	There is no aquatic wildlife present in the project area.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) **McGuire**	12/16/07	MM	Terrestrial wildlife would not be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Access/Transportation **Monkouski**	12/10/11	JJM	There is no change in access or transportation in the project area. Those who do access the area may have minor displacement in the immediate vicinity of the piles which would be burned. No Impacts.
PI	Forest Management (Finding on Standard 3) **T. Adamson**	1/25/2012	TA	See Analysis Forest Vegetation section
NI	Geology and Minerals **Elliott**	2/25/11	KE	Geologic and mineral resources would not be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

NI	Fire **Wyatt**	2/16/2011	BBW	All aspects of the developed Burn Plan would be followed with approval and sign-off for each burn window of opportunity. All personnel would wear proper PPE when in the project area during burning.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights **Belcher**	1/12/12	PB	Due to the majority of the timber being dead, hydrologic impacts are limited to soil and ground vegetation disturbance, which are discussed in the Water Quality section of the E.A. There are no water rights directly impacted by the proposed or no action alternative, indirect impacts are in the Water Quality section.
NP	Paleontology **Wyatt**	2/18/11	BW	There are no paleontological resources that would be impacted from the proposed action.
NI	Noise **Monkouski**	12/9/10	JJM	There are several homes within a ½ mile distance to the project area. There would be short-term, minor noise impacts from a small increase in vehicle travel accessing the area.
NP	Range Management **Johnson Torma**	12/22/10	RJ	Livestock grazing is not authorized within the Project Area.
NP	Lands/ Realty Authorizations **Sperandio**	12/14/10	AS	There is one ROW for a power line: COC-28163. No impacts would occur from the proposed action or the no action alternative.
NI	Recreation **Monkouski Windsor**	12/10/10	JJM	Under the proposed action no impacts would occur to recreational opportunities that include camping, hunting, hiking, and watching wildlife. These uses are limited since the only access for the general public outside of the adjacent homes is from adjacent lands to the west.
NI	Socio-Economics **Cassel**	2/16/11	SC	There would be no impacts to the socio-economics from the proposed action and the no action alternative
NI	Visual Resources **Elliott**	2/25/11	KE	Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.
	Cumulative Impact Summary	2/25/2011	KT	See Analysis
FINAL REVIEW				
	P&E Coordinator **Cassel**	4/13/2011		

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Arlen Shoyo, THPO
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box JJ
Towoac, CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Representative
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, CO 81334

Darlene Conrad, THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Jr., Executive Secretary
Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs
130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Representative
Northern Arapaho Tribe
328 Seventeen Mile Road
Arapaho, WY 82510

Mathew Box, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
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Ignacio, CO 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Tribe
Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, CO 81137

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
P O Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director
Cultural Rights & Protection Specialist
Uintah & Ouray Tribe
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Appendix 3

Scoping List Gore Lakes Fuels Treatment EA

Len H. Carpenter
Wildlife Management Institute
4015 Cheney Dr.
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners
1313 Sherman St., Rm 620
Denver, CO 80203-2240

Colorado Department of Health and Environment
Water Quality Control Division, WQCD-PE-B2
4300 Cherry Creek Dr. South
Denver, CO 80222-1530

Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216-1000

Colorado Division of Wildlife
P.O. Box 216
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

Colorado Division of Wildlife
641 McIntire
Eagle, CO 81631

Colorado Outfitters Association
P.O. Box 1949
Rifle, CO 81650

Colorado State Forest
P.O. Box 69
Granby, CO 80446

CSU Extension Service
P.O. Box 9
Kremmling, CO 80459

Allan Pfister, Assistant Colorado Field Supervisor
Western Colorado Sub-Office, F & WS
764 Horizon Dr. Bldg.
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Grand County Commissioners
P.O. Box 264
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Alan Christensen, Director of Lands
P.O. Box 8249
Missoula , MT 59807-8249

Sierra Club Rocky Mtn. Chapter
1410 Grant St., Suite B205
Denver, CO 80203-1846

Middle Park Stockgrowers
C/O Bill Thompson, Jr.
P.O. Box 826
Kremmling, CO 80459

Natural Resource Conservation Service
C/O Mark Volt
Box 265
Kremmling, CO 80459

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
P.O. Box 679
Loveland, CO 80539

State of Colorado Board of Land Commissioners
1313 Sherman Street, Rm 620
Denver, CO 80203-2240

USFS – White River NF
Dillon RD
680 Blues River Parkway, P.O. Box 620
Silverthorn, CO 80498-620

USFS – Medicine Bow & Routt NF
2468 Jackson, St.
Laramie, WY 82070-6535

Carol Culbreath – General Manager
Grand River Ranch Owners Association
P.O. Box 1029
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

Nordwall, Robert
1329 Flecher Dr.
Erie, CO 80516

Burroughs Mark & Aericha
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Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Goldberg David
1155 W 148 ave
Westminster, CO 80023

Casbon Jon & Lorie
7445 Quaking Drive
Sunderland, MD 01375

Merkwood Forest Company
2422 Champa Street
Denver, CO 80205

Girten Inc.
P.O. Box 768
Breckenridge, CO 80424

Lawson Davis & Cynthia
30221 Merge Lane
Evergreen, CO 80439

Cellars
2210 Routt Street
Wheat ridge, CO 80215

Loseke Leroy & Corinne
4830 W. Vassar Ave
Denver, CO 80219

Roesener Dorthy
2965 Quay Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Burbactt Willi & Emma
6860 Kidder Drive
Denver, CO 80221